



HR0095

LRB096 06616 ASK 16700 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, According to data published in 1990 and again in  
3 1997 in the Journal of the American Medical Association by  
4 David Eisenberg, MD of Harvard Medical School, over 40% of  
5 Americans use at least one alternative therapy; over 70% of the  
6 patients using alternative therapies in Dr. Eisenberg's study  
7 did not disclose this use to their medical doctors; and

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WHEREAS, The provision of complementary and alternative  
9 therapies is increasing by practitioners who have varied to no  
10 training, testing, or legitimate certification; and

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WHEREAS, In recognizing the demand for natural medicine,  
12 the challenge for regulators is to identify those practitioners  
13 who have the appropriate education and training to safely  
14 practice complementary and alternative therapies; and

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WHEREAS, Naturopathic physicians are among the highest  
16 trained practitioners in the broadest scope of complementary  
17 and alternative medicine; and

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WHEREAS, Prior to 1987, naturopathic physicians were  
19 eligible for licensure in Illinois under the Medical Practice  
20 Act; and

1           WHEREAS, Legislative recognition in the form of State  
2 licensure creates a climate for patients to trust the  
3 credentials of naturopathic physicians providing complementary  
4 and alternative therapies; and

5           WHEREAS, Fifteen states, the District of Columbia, and the  
6 U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands  
7 have licensing laws for naturopathic physicians; and

8           WHEREAS, The licensing of naturopathic physicians assures  
9 the public of a high standard of education and training of  
10 these practitioners while providing consumers access to  
11 evidence based natural therapies; therefore, be it

12           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
13 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
14 there is created the Task Force on the Licensure of  
15 Naturopathic Physicians within the Department of Financial and  
16 Professional Regulation to (i) evaluate whether the standards  
17 of naturopathic medical education and training are adequate to  
18 protect the public and (ii) make recommendations as to the  
19 extent to which regulation of naturopathic physicians will  
20 benefit the health of the citizens of Illinois; and be it  
21 further

22           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be composed of the

1 Chairperson of the House Registration and Regulation  
2 Committee, who shall serve as the Task Force Chairperson; the  
3 Minority Spokesperson of the House Registration and Regulation  
4 Committee; 3 members of the House of Representatives appointed  
5 by the Speaker of the House; and 2 members of the House of  
6 Representatives appointed by the Minority Leader of the House;  
7 and be it further

8       RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall hold hearings to  
9 determine the public demand for appropriately educated and  
10 trained naturopathic physicians and the risk and detriment to  
11 the public welfare in the absence of regulation; the Task Force  
12 shall also examine naturopathic medical education institutions  
13 in order to establish the adequacy of naturopathic medical  
14 education and training; and be it further

15       RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall present a written  
16 report of its findings to the House of Representatives no later  
17 than December 31, 2009.